Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /087 W

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P 241600Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4844

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, IT, VA

SUBJ: ITALIAN RESTRICTIONS ON JAPANESE SILK

REF: STATE 117115

- 1. FRANCESO SIMEONE; DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF VFOREIGN TRADE OFFICE THAT HANDLES GATT, MTN, U.S., JAPAN, ETC. AFFAIRS; TOLD EMBOFF GOI IS NOT (REPEAT NOT) TAKING STEPS IMMEDIATELY TO BAN ALL JAPANESE SILK IMPORTS. HE ASSURED EMBOFF HE WAS IN POSITION TO KNOW AS ANY SUCH ACTION WOULD HAVE TO CROSS HIS DESK
- 2. SIMEONE SAID GOJ RESTRICTIONS ON ITALIAN IMPORTS OF ITALIAN SILK YARN IN 1975 LED TO NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH BRUSSELS AND, FINALLY, THE SETTING OF JAPANESE IMPORT QUOTA FOR ITALY AT ABOUT 18 PERCENT BELOW PREVIOUS VEAR IMPORTS. THIS QUOTA ARRAGEMENT EXPIRED AT THE END OF MARCH, 1977. ACCORDING TO SIMEONE, GOJ HAS BEEN DELAYING RENEWAL OF THE ARRANGEMENT AND DISPLAYS "NO INTENTION" OF NEGOTIATING IN GOOD FAITH. GOI IS CONSIDERING BRINGING MATTER UP AT GATT, BUT HAS NOT YET DECIDED. SIMEONE ADDED THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO THINK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN TERMS OF RETALIATION. IF RETALIATION IS TAKEN, HE SAID, IT WOULD BE ON OTHER ITEMS AS ITALIAN IMPORTS OF SILK YARN FROM JAPAN ARE NEGLIGIBLE.

3. ACCORDING TO SIMEONE, JAPANESE IMPORTS OF ITALIAN SILK YARN WERE 186 METRIC TONS (MT)IN 1975, 154 MT IN 1976, AND 17 MT IN FIRST QUARTER OF 1977. ISTAT (ITALIAN

STATISTICS INSTITUTE) DATA FOR ITALIAN SILK YARN (ITEM 50.04 OF CHAPTER 50) EXPORTS TO JAPAN SHOW 229.3 MT OM 1975 AND 106.7 MT IN FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1976. ITALIAN IMPORTS IN THE SAME CATEGORY WERE NIL IN 1975 AND ONLY 5 MT IN 1976. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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